

What's new in Africa?

Weekly newsletter of the Polish Center for African Studies
32nd week of 2015 (03.8 – 10.8.2015)

Top story of the week

Nigeria's Army rescues people from Boko Haram's captivity

03 July 2015

The Nigerian army reportedly made significant gains against terrorist group Boko Haram at the weekend after killing scores of militants and rescuing 178 hostages. Several Boko Haram camps were destroyed as the army seeks to finish off the extremist Islamic group. According to reports, the Nigerian air force killed "a large number" of militants while repelling an attack on Bitta village, in Borno State. An army spokesperson Colonel Tukur Gusau said 178 people were freed from Boko Haram camps and 101 of them were children, 67 were women and 10 were men. Hundreds have been freed from Boko Haram captivity this year but none of the 219 girls abducted in April 2014 from a school in Chibok were among the rescued. More than 200 of the Chibok girls are still missing, more than a year after they were kidnapped from their school in northern Nigeria.



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Other stories

Burundi: Top Burundi General Assassinated in Ambush 03 August 2015

A Burundian army general who was a close ally of President Pierre Nkurunziza has been killed in the country's capital, Bujumbura. The slaying comes after Nkurunziza won a third term in controversial elections. General Adolphe Nshimirimana was killed in a car alongside his driver in the capital's Kamenge district, the president's office said Sunday. The general formerly served as chief of intelligence, and was widely seen as a key member of the president's security team. Witnesses said men in military uniform had ambushed the general's car early in the morning and sprayed it with bullets.

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Nigeria: U.S. to Relax Restrictions On Military Assistance to Nigeria 04 August 2015

The United States is set to relax the restrictions on Nigeria in its ability to procure weapons from America and its allies under the country's Leahy Law. US congressman, Rep Darrel Issah, said Monday. The Leahy Law is a US human rights law that prohibits its Department of State and Department of Defence from providing military assistance to foreign military units that allegedly violate human rights. Issah made the statement while fielding questions from journalists shortly after a closed-door meeting with service chiefs and Ministry of Defence officials at the National Defence College (NDC) in Abuja Monday.

Read more [here](#)

South African opposition leader's corruption trial suspended 04 August 2015

A South African court Tuesday indefinitely suspended the high profile corruption trial of an opposition leader saying he had taken too long to be tried. The Polokwane High Court struck Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema's case off the roll. There have been several delays in the case and this week it had to be postponed because Malema's co-accused was ill. Malema and two others are facing charges of fraud, corruption, money laundering, and racketeering.

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Cameroon Begins 'Repatriating 12,000 Nigerians' 05 August 2015

About 12,000 Nigerians are being repatriated from neighbouring Cameroon, Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency (Nema) has said. Some of those returning via the Sahuda border post have told the BBC they are being sent home against their will. Nema says most of them had sought refuge in Cameroon following attacks by Boko Haram Islamist militants. There have been a spate of recent attacks in northern Cameroon blamed on Boko Haram. The authorities in Cameroon believe the militants are entering the country disguised as refugees. Some of the Nigerians being returned are believed to be those who were rounded up for not having the correct documents. So far 1,121 people have come through the Sahuda border post in Adamawa state and the others are waiting to go through immigration and security screening, Nema said.

Read more [here](#)

Ethiopia: Corporation to Assemble Wagons for Addis-Dewelle Railway Project 05 August 2015

The 756-kilometers Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway project is expected to begin trial service in October 2015. The Ethiopian Metals and Engineering Corporation said that it has imported some 130 wagons for the Addis Ababa-Dewelle Railway Project and is now about to assemble. The 756-kilometers Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway project is expected to begin trial service in October 2015. Logistic and Supply Deputy Manager with the corporation, Major Kiflom Gebre-Mariam told ENA that the corporation has assembled 60 per cent spare parts for the light railway in the capital city. The corporation has planned to produce cross country carriages; and preparations are finalized to assemble 130 carriages in Dire Dawa, he added.

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Uganda's Indian community seeks tribal status 06 August 2015

Uganda's Indian community is lobbying to be recognized constitutionally as a tribe, leaving the country's parliamentarians tied in knots and divided over the matter. Sanje Tanna, Uganda's only legislator of Indian descent and MP for Tororo municipality, this week requested that the country recognizes the Indian community in the constitution. The country's non-indigenous Rwandan and Burundian communities have been recognized in Uganda's constitution since 1995 as indigenous tribes. Indians in Uganda are locally called *Bayindi*, and he is urging parliament to consider the *Bayindi* as a tribe.

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Mali: 12 Dead, 7 Arrested, After Deadly Siege in Mali Ends 08 August 2015

Malian special forces backed by French soldiers have ended the siege of a hotel in central Mali, freeing four hostages being held there by gunmen, according to officials. The attack on Friday left at least twelve people dead, with five Malian soldiers believed to have been killed. The incident took place in the early hours of Friday morning. Armed gunmen stormed the Byblos Hotel in the town of Sevaré, which is home to an important airforce base. The hotel located in central Mali is also where a number of UN peacekeepers are based. Initial reports stated that three South Africans, a Frenchman and a Ukrainian had been registered at the hotel before the attack. Meanwhile, the Russian Embassy in Mali confirmed that one of their citizens were also among the hostages. A government statement on Friday evening gave a provisional toll of "five dead, two injured" on the Malian army side and "two killed" on the other side.

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Did you know that?

African political cartoons archive 05 August 2015

Nigerian researcher Tejumola Olaniyan is creating an online encyclopedia of African political cartooning. The website, Africa Cartoons, aims to showcase works by artists from all over the continent. Tejumola spoke to BBC Africa's Kim Chakanetsa.



Read more [here](#)

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